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PERTINENT INFORMATION

Dispatch from Tokyo

Verbatim from desk dossier - FE/1/Japan

OGATA, former Asahi Shimbum editor and Chief Cabinet Secy and Min of State in the Higashi Kuni Cabinet, is scheduled to leave Japan by air 6 May 52 on a world tour. He will be traveling as an adviser to ESB. An inspection of the SEA countries is expected to take up the 1st month of the journey. On this stage of the trip he is expected to meet Indian PM NEHRU, Indonesian PM SUKARNO and the Gimo. OGATA will spend the following month and a half in Europe and America.

Although the stated purpose of his trip is that of inspecting economic conditions, particularly the development of iron mines in Cao, Portuguese India, in which Japan has made investments, it is believed more likely that the trip will serve in the dual capacity of familiarizing OGATA with the international scene and giving him publicity. OGATA has been mentioned frequently as a possible successor to YOSHIDA in the event HATOYAMA is unable to assume an active political life. OGATA is not well known to the Jap public. A trip such as the one planned should do much to help him politically and will also give YOSHIDA the opportunity to judge him. The PM reportedly wished to send him as his special envoy but following their meeting in April 22, 1952, it was announced that he would travel as an ESB adviser.

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

(2)(A) Privacy

(2)(3) Methods/Sources (2)

(2)(G) Forsign Relations

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